

## The Brethren Evangelist

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J. W. REER,  
E. L. YODER,  
E. MASON,  
J. D. McFADEN, } Editorial Writers.

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### The Pentecostal Church.

The congregation of Jesus Christ that followed the great awakening at Pentecost, was a business institution as well as a religious. It took care of its poor, aided those who were incompetent to properly conduct their own affairs, and they were helpful to one another. The true mission of the church is symbolical of the real kingdom of God in which Jesus is king supreme, and every member should make the interests of all his own interests to a certain degree. The extreme selfishness, and even common dishonesty which some professing people practice on others is vile from the conception of the purposes in the heart to the end of the influence proceeding from the execution of the deeds. The profession of Christianity should at all times be ample evidence that the individual is truthful, honest and unacquainted with treachery. Confidence in brethren and sisters is the most sacred trust, their interests should in a degree be one. These desirable and beautiful qualities are so largely lost by the church, that it is losing its influence as a power for good and people in general are looking with disdain upon its empty pretences. Is it not possible to restore some of the qualities of the Pentecostal church, a deeper concern for the temporal and spiritual interests of members, more and sweeter confidence between members, and purer citizenship before God and man?

### The Seed and the Sowers.

The lesson for the coming Lord's day is the parable of the sowers. This taps a root of knowledge which has branches extending into every state and condition of human character and life. The lesson is remarkable for its brevity and scope. So broad a field could not be unfolded by so few words by any person less than Christ.

One fact made plain by the teaching is that the supply of seed is inexhaustible. No difference how many or how few are sowing, the supply of seed remains as great. The seed is like the loaves and fishes the Master blessed to feed the multitude. The supply was ample for every demand.

The seed is the 'Word' the interpretation of the parable declares. So the 'Word' does not grow less. If one half of the human family were sowers, there

would be no less seed to sow.

Another truth made prominent is that whosoever will may sow. 'A sower went forth to sow.' Sowers are a privileged class. When a man has seed he has every right to sow it whenever he finds opportunity. To be a sower no one needs to procure authority from a higher power than himself. Even sinners may sow 'The Word,' and there has been cases where it fell in good ground from such sowers. Would to God there were more sowers, more of the professing Christians who are either too indolent, proud, selfish or careless.

The parable affords consolation for all who are diligent in good works, but discouraged over the results. Only one fourth of the seed sown brings good results. The other three fourths is wasted or is taken up in such a way that it brings no fruit. It appears even painful to consider, that three fourths of the labor spent in a good cause must be wasted upon barrens of some class. But that is the peculiar division of character found in mankind, and a different result can not be reached in religious work.

The lesson deals with human character, and no better and truer delineator of the same ever lived; and when the lesson of character is taken up, the ground of study is inexhaustible. Of the four classes into which the human family are resolved, only one is desirable for religious purposes, and that class only will be saved. It is evident in more places than one in the New Testament that the fruit-bearing class only will be accepted by Christ. All others will be cast off as unworthy. It therefore becomes a matter of great concern to any man to know whether his deeds of life entitle him to a place in that class. A measurement is given by the same teacher, Jesus. 'Except your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, you can in no wise enter into the kingdom of God.' A little investigation will satisfy about the state of the Pharisee's righteousness. Righteousness means right living, simply, and the Pharisees living consisted only in a punctilious regard for the traditions of the Elders, and the empty ceremonies. When Christ was buried in baptism, he carried with him the whole ceremonial system and it was washed into the dead sea by the waters of Jordan, and the living, consecrated Saviour arose out of the corps, to preach deliverance to men.

Men are now to become spiritual, and when one becomes thus, he is in the fruitful class. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, mercy and such like.

Are you bearing good fruit?

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The printers made Bro J. L. Kimmel, of Cambria, Ind., say 'poor unworthy servants' last week, instead of 'your unworthy servant.' There is nothing serious about the error, however.

Bro. J. M. Snyder, of the German Baptist church has moved to McPherson, Kansas, and will take charge of the College paper and publish also the *Bruderbote*, a German paper, which heretofore was printed in Iowa.

You will want a Brethren Annual to know what was done at the several state and district conventions which concern the future work of the church. The price is only ten cents and you should have it for this, if for no other purpose.

Some one has taken the *Herald of Truth* to task for publishing a series of articles which pretend to prove that affusion is baptism. The critic has the best side of the question by all odds, as a New England College president recently said, any man who has a reputation to maintain will not undertake to prove away immersion. The series of articles are only remarkable for what they failed to prove. It is no wonder that some one told the rich man in hell that the people on the earth would not believe, even though some one from the dead should speak to them, when men will refuse to believe immersion as scriptural baptism when the argument is all on the immersion side. Affusion is not baptism in any sense.

### Moody says:

'The moment a man takes hold of the truth that Jesus Christ is coming back again to receive his followers to himself, this world loses its hold upon him. Gas stocks and water stocks and stocks in banks and railroads are of very much less consequence to him then. His heart is free, and he looks for the blessed appearing of his Lord, who at his coming, will take him into his blessed kingdom.'

These excellent admonitions are from a sermon by C. H. Spurgeon:

'Some Christians have never yet been baptized: how will they answer for wilful neglect of a known duty? Others have been Christians for years, and yet have never communed at the Lord's table. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Do they keep his commandments? It was his dying request. "This do in remembrance of me," and yet they will not fulfill it. Even such a tender request they slight, as though it were of no importance whatever, as if their Lord was a mere nobody whose wishes might well be overlooked. What shall I say of many of the biddings of our holy gospel, many of those sweet precepts which are to be used in the family, and in the business, and in the field? What forgetfulness there is of them! What said the blessed Virgin to those who were at the feast? Note the words, "Whatsoever he saith unto you do it." It was well spoken of the favored mother, and it remains as a golden precept for us all—"Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." Make no reserve, exercise no choice, but obey his command. When you know what he commands, do not hesitate, question, or try to avoid it, but, "do it": do it at once, do it heartily, do it cheerfully, do it to the full.'

We just reach our hand over to Bro. Spanogle and the church at Martinsburg, and congratulate all over the success attained. There is no one who can do a better work in a revival effort than the good and true pastor. Those who come under his ministry, unite with the church and are usually converted to God. Where a traveling evangelist does the preaching it frequently happens that the applicants do not unite with the church; they only come in and want to start a new church and trouble ensues, and the spectator decides that the counted accessions were not converted to God.

The faithful flock at Martinsburg have great reason to rejoice. Brethren churches should not forget that the Holy Ghost converts, and their preacher can cause the people to hear if the pastor is encouraged.

We extend our hand and salutation to Bro. J. H. Knepper, of Berlin, Pa., also, over the good meeting recently held. God is always with his true servants and will help them.

All of the reward for faithfulness centers upon the coming of Jesus. Then he will gird himself and serve, then shall be the crown of glory, then will be put upon the worthy the robe of immortality—when Jesus comes. Have lamps and oil in them always ready. The time is approaching when he will come. Are you ready, brother?

Considerable interest is taken in the purpose of using the large Boarding Hall of the College as a Church Orphan's Home, as bequests to an endowment fund for that purpose are made. The immense advantage therein is that the children of the poor members who pass to their reward, will be educated in the faith of the church, and sent out to do good. The poor children who will otherwise only become outcasts upon an unmerciful world will be sent out as farmers, school teachers, salesmen and book-keepers, professional men and women, ministers of the gospel, artisans and business men. A child born with no more than the ordinary depravity and educated and cared for to the age of sixteen or seventeen, under religious influences, will cling to the right which it has been intelligently taught. Wherever they would go, the Brethren Cause and the clean gospel faith would be upheld. What a wonderful work there is before us to do!

We find time, ordinarily, once in three months to study out the ideas in an amateur's piece of poetry and punctuate it.

Among the heads of the canons of St. Hippolytus, No. 35, reads as follows: 'That deacons may pronounce the benediction and thanksgiving at the love-feasts when the bishop is not present.' This remarkable church Father flourished in the early part of the century. He was fourth from the Apostle John. Polycarp followed St. John, Irenaeus followed Polycarp, and Hippolytus followed Irenaeus.

In the canons of the church of Alexandria, which church was founded by St. Mark, the second one says: 'A bishop should be elected by all the people, and he should be unimpeachable, as it is written of him in the apostles.'

St. Paul preached the gospel thirty-five years. No wonder he could say, 'I have fought a good fight.' He preached or spent all his time.

Germany has two-seventh more theological students than the United States; the population is one-third less. This does not promise well for this country.

Bro. Daniel Miller, of Sidney, Ind., is a man of good thoughts and pure purposes. He publishes an article on excommunication this week which ought to be read with profit by some, especially those who are straining out gnats and swallowing camels. Excommunication is scriptural in the right place and at the right time, but those who usually are foremost in such work are actuated by a bitter feeling, inherent meanness in their characters or a purpose to gratify a false and cruel zeal. Bro. Miller can depend upon us in the warfare against the devil he mentions.

Chapter IV. of Bro. Lair's Exposition of the Prophecies will be commenced next week.

Bro. J. H. Worst will discuss 'Science and Religion' in his next article.

Licensing the liquor traffic is selling to others the right to sin, and is a crime as great as Tetzels' sale of indulgences, and yet some Christians support it.

Humility is one of the fruits of love. There never was a loving person, in the Bible sense, who was not humble.

Recently a Christian woman died in California, and just before she directed her husband to take a permanent part in a missionary society, and that should constitute her monument.

'Confessing your sins' is a Bible command, but one that is too little obeyed. Brethren are to confess their sins to one another, forgive one another and pray for one another. It is a good quality that prompts men to acknowledge their sins. How few the number is who are able to see sin in themselves, and how much they can see in others. Good, spiritual eyes look inward instead of outward.

Bro. Burnworth opens a new department of information this week, in his article about our departed and honored S. C. Stump. Will not others of our brethren who have had experience write them out for the encouragement and edification of the brethren? If those who have passed the life-post of threescore years would innocently write sketches of their experience, to the glory of God, we know their articles will meet with a hearty reception.

Paul, on one occasion wrote that 'our God is a consuming fire.' He referred to his judgments which are already pronounced upon ungodly men. It was a very merciful deed on the part of the Father to reveal the inevitable in plenty of time to escape it, and provide also a way of escape.

Long obituaries can not be printed entire. Our correspondents should remember this. We have not been obliged to limit them to a certain number of words, but those who write them should keep within a hundred words. We must use all alike in this respect, and four or five closely written pages about one person is more than we wish to publish free. This is kindly intended only for those who may intend to write several hundred words about a single one of the departed.

Since the election is over, dreadful wrongs, bribery and theft have been uncovered as methods of campaign work. 'The Christian man should be on his guard that he escapes the guilt of being partaker of other men's sins. Dishonesty in politics is as great an evil as dishonesty anywhere else.'

### Martinsburg, Pa.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—Our church near Martinsburg, Pa., known as the "Cross-road church" has had a spiritual shaking up. Our pastor, Bro. Will Spanogle, began a protracted meeting recently, and after a ten-day effort, our church was made happy in the accession of ten. On Sunday morning the 20th, Bro. Spanogle immersed nine. Though the weather was cold and inclement yet all passed off successfully and pleasantly. Bro. Spanogle labored with his usual zeal and earnestness, and as a result the church has been revived, sinners converted, and a grand interest throughout the community. Bro. Will will serve us as pastor the coming year. We rejoice over our success.

JOHN B. QUARRY.

### Home Effort.

At the earnest solicitation of the brethren we held a two weeks protracted meeting in the Walker Church, one of our regular appointments in the Stonycreek Congregation. Opened with a fair attendance, which continued to increase in number till the house could not contain all that came to attend the meetings. The immediate visible results of the effort are five added to the church by baptism and a number of others, Agrippa like, almost persuaded. We baptized two others in this congregation some time ago making seven since our last report from this congregation.

JOHN H. KNEPPER.

Berlin, Pa., Jan. 22, '89.

Good companionship is an important element in our happiness. Who has better company than the man who walks with God? He can never be lonely; he will always have a sympathizing friend and a present helper. The divine presence will make even an affliction a blessing.—United Presbyterian.

### Worth Reading.

We have carefully examined Bro. Mason's book, "The Gospel According to Jesus." We find it a book worthy of careful study. It vividly deals with the great and cardinal symbols of our holy religion. Its simplicity is remarkable. The more undeveloped minds are able to comprehend it and drink of its beauties. To say that we fully see eye to eye with the author would perhaps be saying more than we ought to say, but if we were to read and respect only such books, our library would dwindle down to but one volume—the Bible, and a great portion of that blessed book we accept, not upon the merits of logical discernment on our part, but on the merits of faith in its author, and its elevating principles in a general sense.

The aim and the tendency in a general sense of our brother's book is to unfold to the heart and mind the great central truths of the great plan of salvation. Our brother's style and simplicity tends to create in the mind of the reader an evergrowing interest in the beauties of symbolic significance in its relation to God's plan of saving men from sin.

We shall do what we can to circulate the book, believing its tendency to be for the better.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Montana, Kansas.

### Brethren Hymnodies.

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